Economic co-operation with UK

3567. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main issues discussed with the British Chancellor of the Exchequer during his delegation's recent visit to the country;

(b) whether any agreement/documents signed during the meetings with the UK delegation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Mr. Gordon Brown, British Chancellor of the Exchequer met Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister in New Delhi on 18th January, 2007. Various bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed during these meetings. No agreements/documents were signed during the meetings with the UK delegation.

Illegal trade with neighbouring countries

3568. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liquidity of goods between India and neighbouring countries is going on, despite precautionary and preventive measures;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment about the loss of revenue on account of these illegal trades;

(c) if so, the extent of loss; and

(d) whether Government are trying to organize border-markets for the benefit of the producers on the border area and to enlarge legal trades in order to minimize the illegal ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A realistic assessment of the loss of revenue on account of illegal trade has not been made. However, in the recent past, there is no